



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

June 24, 2016

MS. MOLLY ROKOSZ  
DEPT MR 26238  
411A HIGHLAND AVENUE  
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144-2516

FOIPA Request No.: 1352681-000  
Subject: KRONTHAL, JAMES SPEYER

Dear Ms. Rokosz:

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed are 11 pages of previously-processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. Documents or information originating with other Government agencies originally referred to that agency were not included in this release. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. Please submit a new FOIA request if you would like the FBI to conduct a search of the indices to our Central Records System.

Submit requests by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. BELMONT

DATE: April 3, 1953

FROM : V. P. KEAY

SUBJECT: JAMES KRONTHAL,  
FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE

Referral/Direct

You will recall that there has been considerable newspaper publicity over the apparent suicide of the captioned individual, a CIA employee.

[redacted] advised on a very confidential basis that [redacted]

Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Dracy  
Smyth  
Mohr  
Underwood  
Edd. Room  
Holloman  
Sizemore  
Miss Gandy

6-1

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 165-12189-1

JLQ:hke:mh

63 MAY 8 1953

SE 25 95-48675

RECORDED 79

APR 14 1953

LIAISON

Memorandum for Mr. Belmont, 4/3/53

Referral/Direct

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ACTION:

For your information.



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : THE DIRECTOR

FROM : D. M. Ladd

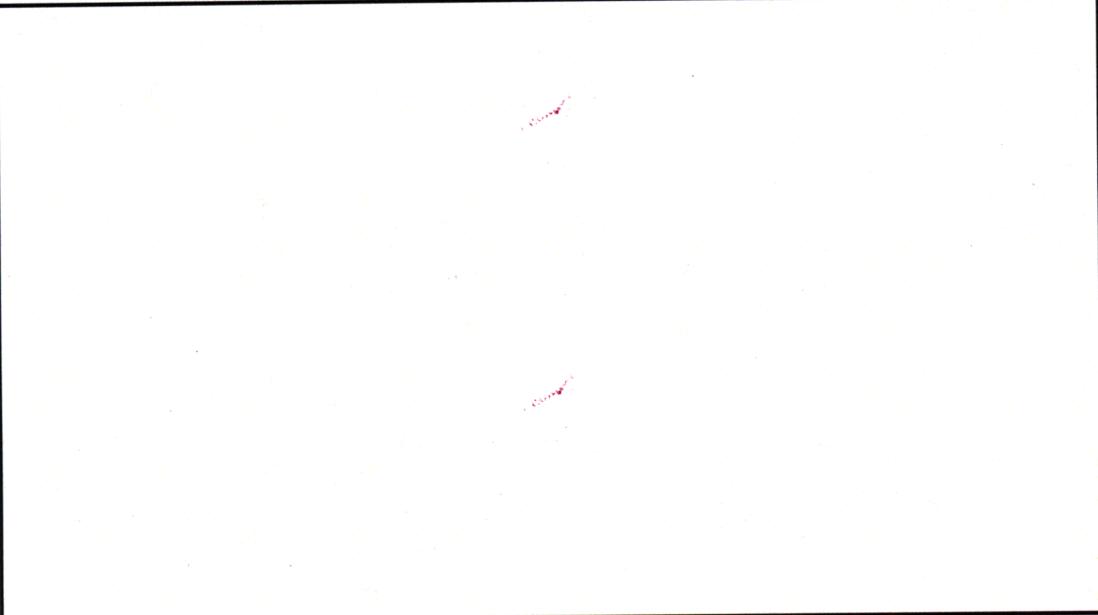
SUBJECT: JAMES KRONTHAL  
CIA employee

DATE:  
March 31, 1953  
2:40 p.m.

Referral/Direct

Bureau liaison agent Sam Papich just called me from CIA to advise he had just been informed that the above-named employee of CIA had committed suicide at his home today.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
McNamee \_\_\_\_\_  
Bosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Turbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Pope \_\_\_\_\_  
Fife & Foom \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



DML:CSH

RECORDED - 26  
125-49275  
RECORDED  
E APR 10 1953

171  
60 APR 23 1953

# Police Await Report By Chemist in Death Of Intelligence Man

The cause of the death of James S. Kronthal, Central Intelligence Agency administrative officer, will remain a mystery until police receive a report on a chemical analysis.

Mr. Kronthal, 40, was found dead yesterday morning on an upstairs bed in his Georgetown home at 1662 Thirty-second street N.W.

On the table near the bed was a handwritten note which Lt. Lawrence Hartnett said may have explained the case with the words that Mr. Kronthal was "mentally upset because of pressure connected with work."

## Vial's Contents Unknown.

On the same table was an empty glass vial. Unable to determine what had been in it, Coroner A. Magruder McDonald ordered the chemical analysis, which may not be completed before next week.

Following its practice, the CIA revealed nothing of Mr. Kronthal's work there the last two or three years except that he was in an administrative capacity. His salary was more than \$10,000.

He lived alone in the two-story white brick home for the last year and was little known by his neighbors.

## Graduate of Yale.

Born in Deal, N. J., August 21, 1912, Mr. Kronthal was graduated from Yale University in 1934, a Phi Beta Kappa. As a freshman he was a member of the crew and the following year was runner-up in fencing competition.

Later he obtained a master's degree from Harvard University. Entering the Army as a private in 1942, he served overseas and emerged a captain four years later.

Upon his discharge, Mr. Kronthal joined the State Department.



—Star Staff Photo.  
**JAMES KRONTHAL.**

ment and served for a time as an Attache at Bern, Switzerland.

His mother, Mrs. Maude R. Kronthal, lives in New York.

NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE  
59 APR 30 1953

0-19  
Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gearty \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Times-Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. Post \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
N.Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
N.Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_

50 MAY 4 1953

Date: APR 30 1953

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. HARBO ✓  
 FROM : D. J. PARSONS  
 SUBJECT: JAMES KRONTHAL, Deceased  
 CIA Employee

DATE: April 10, 1953

44-DE ✓

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo ✓  
 Tele. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Morse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quincy \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Magruder MacDonald, District Coroner, called on the phone and stated that District Chemist, Dr. Young, was in possession of two samples of blood which he, Dr. MacDonald, desired the FBI Laboratory to analyze for narcotics. He stated that no examination had been given the specimens. He asked that Dr. Young be permitted to speak to someone in the Laboratory concerning the case.

Dr. Young called and advised that as District Chemist, he had analyzed all of the organs of the deceased for narcotic substances with negative results, but he had not analyzed the blood specimens. He was advised that in our experience in analyzing blood specimens for narcotics, we had never been able to recover any such substances because they were absorbed by the stomach. Young stated that he was very aware of this through his 23 years of experience, but it was the Coroner's request that the FBI Laboratory analyze the blood specimens. To do so, of course, would be contrary to our policy of not testing specimens in the same scientific field in which another expert has made analyses. It was explained to Dr. Young that such analyses by the FBI Laboratory would be contrary to our existing policy, and that I would have to advise him later whether such an analysis could be made.

In view of the friendliness of Dr. Mac Donald toward the Bureau and the fact that a CIA employee is the deceased, I wish to recommend the following:

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend in view of the importance of the case and Dr. MacDonald's friendliness that an exception be made to the Bureau's policy in this instance and that we conduct the analysis requested despite the fact that we anticipate negative results.

TDB/mek

cc: Mr. Nichols

RECORDED - 112

Lia. H.  
H-16-83  
JUN 11 1953

MAY 9 1953

3 things we should  
do this

4-10

4-10

K.

REPORT  
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON D. C.

7-1a

April 16, 1953

RECORDED 112  
To: Mr. N. E. Tongue  
Chief, Chemistry Laboratory  
District of Columbia Health Department  
Washington, D. C.

B. I. R. 9

Following is the report of the FBI Laboratory giving the results of examinations conducted upon evidence delivered to the Laboratory on 4-10-53.

This examination has been made with the understanding that the evidence is connected with an official investigation of a criminal matter and that the Laboratory report will be used for official purposes only, related to the investigation or a subsequent criminal prosecution. Authorization cannot be granted for the use of the Laboratory report in connection with a civil proceeding.

Re: JAMES KRONTHAL, Deceased  
CIA EMPLOYEE

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO.

FBI FILE NO.

LAB. NO.

PC-35473 DS

Examination requested by: Addressee

Reference: Personal visit of 4-10-53

Examination requested: Chemical analyses

Specimens: Q1-Q2 Two samples of blood

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION:

The two blood samples were combined and examined by the Standard Stas-Otto procedure for extraction and purification, but no poisons were found. The samples of blood were consumed in the examination.

JWM:bld

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



R3

RHQ

WMA J. W. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Recorded 4/13/53 mdf

Laboratory Work SheetRe: JAMES K. ONTHAL, Deceased  
CIA EmployeeFile # 95-47725  
Lab. # PC-35473 DEExamination requested by: Dr. N. E. Yongue, Chief, Chemistry Lab. D. C. Health Dept.  
Washington, D. C.Date of reference communication: Pers visit 4/10/53 Date received: 4/10/53  
pers del

Examination requested: Chemical Analyses (toxicological)

Result of Examination:

Examination by: PAGE

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1-Q2 Two samples of blood

Q1-Q2 Standard Star-Dtd meth.  
negative results.Finger  
Wife  
Blood

b6  
b7C

## EVIDENCE RECEIPT FORM

(To be used in lieu of correspondence covering evidence submissions to the Laboratory)

Submitting agency \_\_\_\_\_

Delivered by \_\_\_\_\_

Suspect \_\_\_\_\_ Date 10-6-1Victim James S. Kroll Accepted by \_\_\_\_\_Offense murder Lab # 10-6-1

Place and date \_\_\_\_\_

## BRIEF FACTS COVERING CASE:

*Lab 10-6-1  
4-16-13  
JAN*

Any previous examinations this case? \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence now located in Room # 1407Report to be directed to N. E. Young  
Clif. Chem. Lab. H.C. Health Dept. Wm. H.

Copies to \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence to be returned to \_\_\_\_\_

Date of hearing, grand jury, trial or reason why expeditious handling is necessary \_\_\_\_\_

EVIDENCE	THIS SPACE FOR BLOCKING
RECORDED - 112	
<i>42-46758</i>	
<i>JAN</i>	

Phone 174-2105 (over)

Copy:ew

MR. A. H. BELMONT

December 8, 1954

MR. R. R. ROACH

[Redacted] Referral/Direct

On December 3, 1954, Agent Papich and Mr. DeLoach had  
occasion to meet with [Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] the case of James Kronthal, a CIA employee who committed  
suicide in his Georgetown home on March 31, 1953. [Redacted]

SJP:mnm/lmm

(4)

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Papich

1 - Section Tickler File

NOT RECORDED  
145 1 13 1954

11 DEC 17 1954

ORIGINAL

[redacted] Referral/Direct

With regard to [redacted]

[redacted] this is possible bearing in mind  
that it has been established that such information exists. As pointed  
out above, such [redacted]

With regard to the existance of a suicide letter, the  
Bureau heretofore has not received information concerning such a document  
[redacted] The Liaison Agent does  
know that [redacted]

[redacted] So far no information  
has been received by the Bureau concerning the Kronthal case which would  
warrant an official inquiry by the Bureau. [redacted]

ACTION:

The Liaison Agent will continue to be alert for any  
additional information which might shed light on the letter allegedly  
written by Kronthal.